



Peace Corps Macedonia

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SIXTEENTH GROUP OF PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS BEGIN SERVICE IN MACEDONIA

Thirty-six New Volunteers Take Oath at a Ceremony in Kumanovo in the Year when Peace Corps Marks 50 years in the world and 15 years in Macedonia

November 28, 2011

KUMANOVO, Macedonia -- The sixteenth group of U.S. Peace Corps Volunteers in Macedonia has completed its pre-service training.

On November 24, thirty-six new Volunteers marked the conclusion of eleven weeks of pre-service training in the training communities Romanovce, Probishtip, Kratovo and Lozovo.

This event coincided with the traditional American celebration of Thanksgiving and the opportunity was used to honor two important anniversaries: 50 years of Peace Corps around the world and 15 years of Peace Corps in Macedonia.

The Peace Corps traces its roots and mission to 1960, when then-Sen. John F. Kennedy [challenged students at the University of Michigan](#) to serve their country in the cause of peace by living and working in developing countries. From that inspiration grew a federal government agency devoted to world peace and friendship.

To this day, the three original goals of the Peace Corps remain the same: 1) to help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women; 2) to help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the people served, and 3) to help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

Peace Corps has been present in Macedonia since 1996, when the Country Agreement was signed between the Peace Corps and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Macedonia. Since 1996, over 300 Peace Corps Volunteers have worked alongside their counterparts in Macedonia. Schools, municipalities, and NGOs have hosted volunteers of all ages who have contributed enthusiasm, innovation and expertise to address the challenges of communities around this country.

The new group of Volunteers were sworn in by U.S. Ambassador Paul D. Wohlers, in a ceremony attended by the Minister of Education and Science, Panche Krlev, a Representative from the Cabinet of the President Mr. Nikola Gjorgon, mayors of the communities that assisted with the training program

and other representatives from the Macedonian government and local governments, numerous friends of Peace Corps, current Volunteers in the country, the host families, training staff and PC Macedonia staff.

With this they officially begin their two-year service assignments which will take place in thirty-two communities throughout the Republic of Macedonia.

Peace Corps Macedonia Director Stephen Kutzy said: "the communities of Romanovce, Probishtip, Kratovo, and Lozovo, which hosted the Volunteers during training, have been wonderfully hospitable in welcoming the Volunteers into their homes and assisting them with learning Macedonian and Albanian. It is a wonderful example of the cooperation between our two countries for the benefit of everyone."

As part of the pre-service training, Volunteers received intensive Macedonian language training, and for those who will work in western parts of the country, instruction was provided in both Macedonian and Albanian. The Volunteers also received information about the Macedonian educational system, economic and business issues, governmental and non-governmental organizations and programs, and organizations involved with environmental issues. Each Peace Corps Volunteer lived with a host family to gain better understanding of the community and culture in Macedonia, and to facilitate the development of their language skills.

The Volunteers will move to their assignments throughout Macedonia within the next couple of days. Twenty will work in English language education, while sixteen will help non-governmental and local government organizations.